

News- SOCIAL Letter ACTION

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"For Every Child A Fair Chance..."

Over 27 million youth under twenty years of age received no religious instruction last year—1950. In addition 13 million children under twelve years were without any Christian training.

These facts could be augmented by statistics about juvenile crime, poor educational facilities, bad housing conditions, inadequate health services, broken homes, etc., but it is enough to say that the entire field of children and youth presents a strategic job for the citizens of any community.

The spark which has been ignited by the Midcentury White House Conference is being fanned into flames of action on the community level. Many of the 464 national organizations participating in the Conference have already started to apply its findings. The General Federation of Women's Clubs is launching a program geared to building freedom with youth, among its 5,000 clubs, with combined club and youth projects in recreation, employment, vocational guidance, safety, citizenship and community betterment. Many states have already announced going projects. The Connecticut Commission on Children and Youth has initiated an intensive statewide program based on its delegates' report of the Conference.

Early in the winter Kansas delegates to the Conference and other members of the governor's planning committee conducted a "Little White House Conference," at the annual meeting of the Kansas Council for Children and Youth, making specific plans for intensive education and action based on Conference findings and recommendations. The Idaho White House Conference Committee organized regional meetings early in 1951 to enable every county committee in the state to hear and discuss reports of the Washington meetings and to exchange ideas as to how county action already under way can capitalize upon Conference data. Indiana arranged for a midday meeting of over 1,000 parents and teachers and others whose work affects the lives of children from all over the state to develop projects which will help make a reality of the Conference goal—"For every child a fair chance..."

Church groups need to be alert to these activities in their communities and their states which are being initiated to implement the findings of the Conference.

R. E. M.

Pass The India Aid Bill — Now!

India faces a famine of serious proportions. Famines and floods are nothing new for that land, but widespread hunger and suffering could be serious for the new government struggling to achieve stability. Some time ago the Indian government asked the U. S. for 2 million tons of grain to help feed the starving. But about this time Nehru was trying to form a sort of "third force" bloc in the U. N. to bring about a compromise in the US-USSR conflict. A number of members of Congress feel that India's attitude is a sufficient reason for rejecting her plea for assistance. Others claim that the needed grain could be secured from Pakistan simply by settling the trade war between the two countries. Still others want India to pay for the grain, ignoring the fact that it would have to be sold on credit and that the Indian government is not able to pay for it. One cannot escape the feeling that the reasons given for withholding approval of the bill are specious and unconvincing. To the man in the street it looks very much as if Congress is indulging in the extremely dangerous game of using hunger as a means of punishing political dissent.

At its meeting on March 14, the Board of Trustees of the U.C.M.S. voted to send the following telegram to Senator Tom Connally, chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, and to Representative Adolph J. Sabath, chairman of the House Rules Committee:

"The United Christian Missionary Society of Disciples of Christ conducting mission work in India strongly urges passage of Aid to India Bill, H.R.-3071. Respectfully urge Rules Committee both Houses report Bill favorably and support passage. By order of the Board of Trustees. Mayble M. Epp, Secretary."

A number of members of the board sent individual telegrams supporting the Society's action.

As matters now stand only a strong protest from the voters can get the bill out of the House Rules Committee where it is locked up by an 8 to 4 adverse vote. Telegrams and letters, preferably telegrams, should be sent to Rep. Adolph J. Sabath, Chairman Rules Committee, House Office Building, Washington, D. C., urging the committee to report favorably and support for passage the Aid to India Bill, H. R. 3071. Telegrams should also go to your Representative and the two Senators from your state.

The National Council of Churches has petitioned Congress to make this food available to the Indian people on such terms as may be mutually accept-

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European Protestant Laymen Face Issues

One of the most incisive and forthright documents on the situation which confronts the continent of Europe emanating from any source is the report of the Ecumenical Commission on European Cooperation, drawn up at a meeting of the Commission on January 13 and 14. The Commission on European Cooperation is composed of Christian laymen from practically all the countries of Western Europe, including Britain. It is not officially related to the World Council of Churches, but in the words of Dr. Walter Van Kirk it "is unofficially related to the inquiries and concerns of the World Council and the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs."

The report declares that "the peoples of Western Europe are at the moment confronted with a new political situation which demands a complete reorientation of the policy which they have been following for the last five years." That policy has been directed toward economic and social rehabilitation while at the same time attempting to achieve closer European cooperation in order to strengthen the political and economic position of Europe in a world of growing tension between East and West. Economic rehabilitation has succeeded in most countries, thanks to American aid, says the report. The idea of European cooperation has met with great public response and has made some headway in attempts at unification, the most interesting of which is embodied in Schuman Plan.

But in the last few months the pace of history has changed. Europe is now confronted with the growing fear that a show-down between the Western Powers and the Soviet Union is imminent. Europe is suddenly being asked to give high priority to military defense. While the U. S. is making great efforts to strengthen its position on a global scale, most of the peoples of Europe are reluctant to change the priorities in their domestic policies and subordinate everything to rearmament. The U. S. is aware of the gravity of developments but underestimates the dilemma of European countries which must maintain their economic and social equilibrium while building up their military defense. Europeans know more than Americans about the European situation, but are too deeply involved in their own prob-

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"Wake Up Or Blow Up"

This is the arresting title of a new book by Dr. Frank C. Laubach, the world famous Christian educator whose teaching methods have enabled more than 60,000,000 people speaking 200 different languages and dialects to read in their own language. Dr. Laubach is a Congregational Christian minister and Foreign Representative of the Committee on World Literacy.

Although the Communists have outsmarted the free world in many areas in the battle for men's minds, says Dr. Laubach, we can turn their exploitation to our advantage within two years by meeting the needs of oppressed people which Russia has pointed out. Our efforts must be directed toward the two-thirds of the world that is still hungry and the three-fifths that are still illiterate. "For years," Dr. Laubach writes, "we neglected these people, and the Communists, out to capture the world, went to them promising not Marxian Socialism but the American way of life. These ignorant people believed those promises. The Communists will capture the rest of the world unless America wakes up and gives them what the Communists promise." The Point Four program offers hope, but unfortunately America's reaction to it has been only luke-warm. Instead, we are giving from one-fifth to four-fifths of our income to build up a defense which is bound to grow steadily more dangerous and impossible.

European Protestant . . .

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lems to take account of the global aspects of the East-West tensions. Europeans must rearm, but there is a "deep mistrust of American military policy and a general fear of becoming the battlefield of a future war (which) contribute(s) to the unwillingness to defend the soil of Europe." The mistrust has been increased in France by the U. S. proposal to rearm Western Germany, by the Taft-Hoover declarations suggesting withdrawal from Europe and by the new negotiations with Spain. For all these reasons, say the laymen, the idea of neutrality

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Washington Round-Up

UMST. On Friday, March 9, the Senate voted 79 to 5 for a universal military training and service bill that will impose permanent conscription on all young men in the U. S. An amendment offered by Senator Taft (R. Ohio) to limit the act to four years was defeated 58 to 30. Senator Edwin Johnson (D. Colo.) offered an amendment to separate the emergency and the permanent features of the bill, but this was also voted down 68 to 20. The only victory the opponents of the bill were able to claim was the placing of a 4-million man ceiling on the army. This was credited to Senator Morse (R. Ore.). He failed, however, in his efforts to limit the draft age to 18½, but succeeded in reducing the proposed period of service from 26 to 24 months. Another Morse amendment to double the proposed 75,000 students who will be deferred for college study after four months of basic training was voted down.

The Senate bill provides that all young men may be drafted at 18 for 24 months of service. Since no periodic review by Congress is provided the new draft program will continue on a permanent basis. All war legislation, including conscription measures, up to this time have had a definite terminal date, usually two years. The Senate bill permits the President at his discretion to reduce the active service features of the bill during peacetime and to establish a 4 to 6 month universal military training program. Only a concurrent resolution by Congress can repeal the new law. During the debate Senator Taft pointed out that during his service in the Senate the Congress has never passed such a resolution and that it was unlikely to do so in the future.

House Action. The House Armed Services Committee concluded hearings on conscription on March 8. Debate on the floor was scheduled to begin about March 15. (This was postponed until about April 3 to permit debate on the troops for Europe issue—Editor.) A number of religious groups appeared in opposition to the bill and especially to drafting 18-year-olds. The House Bill is the same as that enacted by the Senate but with 18½ years as the starting age of the draft.

Conscientious Objectors. The Senate bill contains provisions for conscientious objectors to be assigned to "work of national importance under civilian direction." The House bill, as it now stands, provides for continued deferment of COs, although most observers believe that the bill when finally enacted will contain some provision for alternative service for men opposed to military service on religious grounds.

Federal Job Holders. The mobilization program has brought about an

increase of 2,000 per day in the number of civilians employed by the federal government. The Joint Committee on Reduction of Non-Essential Federal expenditures has disclosed that the number of federal employes increased by 60,594 in January, 58,388 of whom were hired by the military establishment. This, the committee says, is three civilians for each four men in the January draft quota. Of the total of 2,245,275 federal employes on the payroll, 1,046,829 are in the Defense Department.

Cigarette Consumption. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports that 361 billion cigarettes were consumed in the U. S. last year. Another 18 billion were consumed by overseas personnel of the U. S. and 14 billion were sent to foreign countries. The total output for 1950 was 392 billion.

Aid to Europe. European industrial output stands at 26 per cent above the prewar level and farm production has reached its prewar level, thanks to U. S. aid through the Marshall Plan. Total Marshall Plan aid to date has amounted to \$8.8 billion with \$350 million more authorized. The military aid program is now largely supplanting economic aid. About \$3.5 million military and economic aid will be spent this year.

Co-op Taxes. The House Ways and Means Committee, looking for new sources of revenue, is considering legislation to eliminate the present tax exemption on patronage dividends of consumer cooperatives. Former Rep. Jerry Vorhis, now the executive secretary of the Cooperative League of the U. S., testified in opposition to the proposed legislation, saying that co-op rebates to members are not earnings in the usual sense of the word, but represent rebates made to customers on purchases and that their elimination would seriously cripple the whole cooperative movement in the U. S. Cooperatives now pay taxes on all earnings except the surplus purchase payments returned to customers. These patronage dividends are included in the income of members and are thus subject to the federal income tax. Taxing Co-op dividends would mean taxing these funds twice.

Combating Deflation. Contemplating possible deflation after the rearmament program is completed, the government is giving attention to ways of combatting it. Present plans call for armament spending to reach its peak in 1952 and decline in 1953 and 1954, finally leveling off at about \$35 billion a year. Government planners claim that consumer goods reduction during the rearmament period will be so slight that there will be no large unfilled demand in the post-rearmament years. Present thinking revolves around public works and other forms of non-defense spending to meet the threat of deflation.

On Social Frontiers

Berlin Thanks CROP. On a recent trip to the U. S. Mayor Ernest Reuter of West Berlin took occasion in Chicago to express the thanks of the people of his city for relief materials contributed by American farm families. He said that while the situation in Berlin is not as acute as it was two or three years ago, there are 200 to 500 refugees from the Eastern Zone entering the city every day. In addition, the latest figures (December, 1950) showed 193,000 persons whose sole income was the city's social welfare program. He estimated that almost twice that number depend on federal or state relief. There were also 290,000 unemployed in the city. These conditions, said Mayor Reuter, put a constant and dangerous strain on the municipal economy.

* * *

Social Action Committee on the Job. The social education-action committee of the Disciples Council of Greater St. Louis carries on a constant program of education and action under the chairmanship of Tom Underwood, pastor of the Compton Heights Church. The committee decided to lend its efforts toward the election of nominees for the city school board endorsed by the nonpartisan Citizens Committee and to assist in the campaign. The committee also voted to secure registrations from the Christian churches of the community for the Race Relations Institute sponsored by the church federation and to urge church groups to sponsor additional DP families.

* * *

What Price Segregation? The Georgia Senate voted to withhold funds from common schools and from units within the state university system in event the schools are forced to drop racial barriers. The House bill, passed earlier, was so worded that if one unit of the system was forced to admit Negroes only that unit would lose its funds. But the Senate insisted on its wording, so that if any school admits a Negro the funds for the entire school system will be forfeited. The destruction of the educational system of a state is a high price to pay for segregation. Governor Byrnes of South Carolina has announced, according to a radio broadcast, that in event Negroes are admitted to the schools of the state the entire system will be taken from under state control and turned over to private interests—perhaps to the churches! Query: Will the churches allow themselves to be used in such a deal? Will the intelligent citizens of these states — and the majority are intelligent and patriotic — permit Ku Klux type politicians to sabotage their systems of public education to gratify racial prejudice.

Report On World War II COs Issued

The Selective Service System has issued a comprehensive report in two volumes covering its experience with conscientious objectors during World War II. Published as Special Monograph No. 11, entitled "Conscientious Objection," the two volumes may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C. The first volume containing the text costs \$1.25 and the second, containing appendices A-G, costs \$1. The report is said to be objective in its point of view with a favorable analysis of the operation of Civilian Public Service.

Some of the figures given are available for the first time. Selective Service reveals that perhaps as many as 75,000 persons registered as conscientious objectors of some degree. Many were never considered for CO classification because they had other grounds for deferment. An estimated 25,000 men were inducted into the military service as I-A-Os (COs assigned to non-combat duty with the armed forces), and 11,950 were assigned to Civilian Public Service. Up to June 30, 1946, 6,086 men were convicted for violations of the Selective Service Act, 3,721 of failure to report for induction. Of the prison sentences given, 84.8 per cent were for periods from a year and a day to five years.

This report is of more than passing importance because this is the first time that the federal government has been willing to release information concerning conscientious objectors.

Says Demand For Parochial School Support Growing

"Pressure for public support of parochial schools is rising, and rising very fast," Dr. Harrison S. Elliott, general secretary of the Religious Education Association, told the Conference on Religious and Public Education, held at the College of the Bible, Lexington, Kentucky, on March 7. Dr. Elliott is currently touring the country in connection with the association's study of the relation of religion to public education. The basic question of the conference was, where and how shall religion and moral values enter into the experience of youth, and what is the function of the school as a school in religion? Dr. Elliott suggested two reasons why the public schools are not doing a good job of making youth intelligent about religion. First, he said, some religious groups are afraid to have religion dealt with critically. Second, the failure of educators to face the real issue, that of the function of the school, as a school, in religion. As a result, religious teaching is being thrown back to the churches to be done on marginal time. The

Freedom And Democracy Sunday Materials Available

Materials for observance of Freedom and Democracy Sunday, July 1, are now going to press and will be mailed not later than June 1. Letters sent out by the Department of Social Welfare to 5,000 ministers, 5,800 Sunday school superintendents and more than 3,000 youth leaders are bringing in many orders for the free materials especially designed for this observance. No offering is required.

The free materials consist of a special pamphlet of suggestions to ministers for use of the occasion for stressing the spiritual foundations of freedom, worship services for the general church service, the Sunday school and for youth groups, and one or more copies of the big 17-inch by 22-inch poster for the bulletin board or classroom use.

Freedom and Democracy Sunday was launched some years ago to revive interest in the spiritual aspects of human liberty and to bring back the religious values inherent in our national freedom. The slogan adopted was "Freedom Is Rooted in Faith." If you haven't ordered your supplies, drop a postcard to Department of Social Welfare, 222 S. Downey Ave., Indianapolis 7, Ind.

Summer School On Church And Economic Life

The University of Chicago announces the third annual Summer School on the Church and Economic Life June 25-July 28, in cooperation with the Department of the Church and Economic Life of the National Council of Churches. As in the past, the school will be under the direction of Professor Victor Obenhaus. Courses satisfactorily completed may be offered for University credit.

Three courses will be offered, "Economics for Pastors," by A. Dudley Ward, of the Department of the Church and Economic Life, "Religious Foundations for Meeting Social and Economic Issues," by Dr. John B. Thompson, dean of the University Chapel, and "Churches and Community Dynamics," by Professor Kermit Eby. Tuition fees amount to \$92.50 and room rent for the period, \$17.50.

As in the past, the Department of Social Welfare will cooperate in providing scholarship assistance for selected ministers of our churches. Write James A. Crain, 222 S. Downey Ave., Indianapolis 7, Ind. The first two applicants from each communion will receive a half-tuition scholarship from the school.

solution is to teach religion in the schools, not in sectarian terms, but as an aspect of culture.

Pass The India ..(from Page 1, Col. 2)

able to the two governments, pointing out that such action is justified not only on humanitarian grounds but also to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the American and Indian people.

A message to President Truman and to Congress signed by 43 members of the Indian Parliament, backing up the official request of their government, said in part:

"Consideration . . . of the proposal for a gift of food grains to help this country tide over her present shortage and mitigate distress of our people will be watched keenly by many here. We are among those in India who are opposed to totalitarianism in all its forms and recognize that the liberty and integrity of the free countries of Asia, including our own, are today menaced by Communist expansionism. We have, on the other hand, watched with appreciation the great effort for the welfare of the free world embodied in the Marshall Aid and Point Four program. We would like to see the United States and India cooperate with the countries of the Commonwealth and other Democracies in securing world peace through collective security. Convinced as we are that the bulk of the Indian people believe in the democratic way of life and recognize in the Democracies of the world their natural friends and allies, we should be happy to see our fellow-legislators in the United States Congress give their approval to the proposal now before them, *moved by the needs of the people of India and uninfluenced by monetary differences of policy* (Italics mine. Editor). We are confident that such a gesture of solidarity on the part of the American people toward the people of India would strengthen the friendship and understanding between our two countries and bring them closer together."

On Jan. 30, Walter Lippmann wrote in the *New York Herald-Tribune*:

"Let us not defame ourselves by giving even a shred of justification to the charge that we could let people die of hunger because their government did not vote as our government would like that government to vote. Let us not place between the people of India and the people of America, perhaps for decades or generations to come, such a terrible memory. Let us not for lack of imagination and experience do as a government what no decent American would dream of doing if it were his own personal and private responsibility to give or to withhold out of his surplus food for men, women and children who are dying of hunger."

Every consideration demands that this aid be given at once. India has asked for it. The State Department has recommended it. The President has urged it. Congress should quit dragging its feet.

European Protestant . . .

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finds a great deal of popular support. There is pessimism and frustration arising from the conviction that there is not time to build up a strong neutrality, that to rearm within national frameworks is out of date. Therefore, while there is no choice in the matter, building up military strength will not be worth the sacrifices of economic and social gains required. Others believe that the only answer is a desperate effort to achieve immediate European union.

The political unification of Europe has been looked upon as a long-term proposition. Today, however, European nations are confronted with urgent tasks that can be fulfilled only by a unified Europe which does not exist and may not exist for a long time.

After noting some of the difficulties inherent in attempts at European unification, the report submits four arguments for it:

1. "In the first place, many people on the European continent have lost confidence in the national states." A new European political community would do away with the sense of frustration, of being pawns of international circumstances, and would give new hope.

2. Only an economically integrated Europe is strong enough to deal with the economic problems of our times, to provide the mass production that can make possible greater well-being. "More serious still, is the fact that all attempts to protect man against economic insecurity are doomed to failure in European states which have become too small to achieve a responsible society in the economic field."

3. Any serious attempt at European defense can only be a joint one. Defense must be built by expansion of the economy without lowering the standard of living, if the workers are to be able to support it.

4. Must unification include all European nations? "The decision will depend on whether a country, in refusing to participate, seriously weakens the common effort." Continental European nations might unify without Britain and yet develop close relationships with her, but Britain must ask herself if the Channel may not prove in another war as illusory a defense as did the Maginot Line in the last war.

A third section of the report is entitled "The Challenge to the Churches." The churches can, say the laymen, exert "a creative influence" to "help governments and peoples to face the facts, to accept the sacrifices and to seek the common weal instead of selfish and local interests." "So far the

Christians Must Accept The Social Revolution Says Church Leader

"Christians cannot with consistency be Communists, but Christian responsibility must begin with the acceptance of the social revolution," was the declaration of Dr. John C. Bennett, of Union Seminary, New York, on his return February 4 from a three-month globe circling tour under the auspices of the International Missionary Council that took him to Lebanon, Pakistan, India, Thailand, and the Philippine Islands. While on tour he held seminars for Christian leaders set up by local churches.

Church leaders in all lands are interested in discovering alternatives to Communism, said Dr. Bennett. In the face of inroads being made by Communists these church leaders are seeking an answer to the specific challenges which it makes to the Christian faith.

"Three things," said Dr. Bennett, "make it possible for Communism to make inroads in Asia—poverty, landlordism, and political corruption. These are inter-related, and of the three, political corruption is the foremost, for where it exists land reform is impossible, and without land reform poverty will be perpetual."

Armed force has never been the strength of Communism, Dr. Bennett pointed out. It is always a residual threat but Communists have been adept at getting what they want without using it. A military victory over Russia or China will not solve the problems. It would serve only as a delaying action. The Christian churches, said Dr. Bennett, could perform a real service by challenging men to work out their problems along other lines which would permit them to retain their freedom. The present low ebb of American popularity in Asia, he said, began when our forces crossed the 38th parallel and went into North Korea. J. A. C.

European churches have done little to discharge this responsibility."

Perhaps, however, the most daring part of the report is a series of questions addressed, in order, to France, Italy and other Continental countries, to Germany, to Britain, to the U. S. A., and finally, to the European churches.

These questions are not softened to save national sensibilities. They are sharp, incisive, and go to the heart of the problem. They are not discourteous, but they are direct and pertinent. The governments concerned, including the U. S., would do well to ponder them, as would the churches of Europe and America. In the opinion of this writer it is one of the greatest documents on European affairs to come from any religious group. J.A.C.